

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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XMB-02 AID-05 /098 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9398

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON ANGOLA

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 1360, MOSCOW 1076,

1. SUMMARY. TWO ARTICLES IN WEEK-END CENTRAL PRESS, INCLUDING A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV, REITERATE POLICY TRACK LAID DOWN IN LAST WEEK'S OBSERVER ARTICLE (FIRST REF). ONE PRAVDA REPORT CONTAINS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT AND HIS "DISTORTION" OF THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, WHILE ANOTHER STRONGLY CRITICIZES THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS DURING HIS SENATE TESTIMONY. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRAVDA (FEB 2) FRONTPAGES A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION MEETING IN LUANDA. BREZHNEV CONCLUDES THAT THE MEETING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO "CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITY (SPLOCHENIYE) OF ALL THE PATRIOTIC AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES, WHICH SUPPORT THE PROTECTION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" OF ANGOLA. PRAVD'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK (FEB 1) DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO A DISCUSSION OF THE ANGOLA SITUATION WHICH IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. AND CONCLUDES THAT THE SOVIET UNION WELCOMES EFFORTS WHICH WOULD "PROMOTE THE CONSOLTDATION IN ANGOLA OF ALL PATRIOTIC FORCES WHICH SUPPORT THE COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND FREE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT COUNTRY."

3. ELSEWHERE, PRAVDA (FEB 2) CARRIES A BRIEF TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON WHICH HITS DIRECTLY AT THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-MPLA GROUPS IN ANGOLA, AND HIS DISSATISFACTION OVER THE HOUSE VOTE. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT IN HIS CONSIDERATIONS OF THE NEXT STEPS FOR U.S. POLICY, THE PRESIDENT "DISTORTS" THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, AS WELL AS "THE POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA."

4. PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK ALSO HITS HARD AT THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE, AND IN PARTICULAR FOCUSES ON HIS STATEMENTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA "ARE ATTEMPTING TO DERIVE FOR THEMSELVES ADVANTAGES FROM THE EVENTS IN ANGOLA," AND THESE EVENTS "THREATEN THE ENTIRE AGGREGATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, "THE LOGIC OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS OBVIOUSLY GROUNDLESS." AS PROOF, PRAVDA CLAIMS "THE ENTIRE WORLD KNOWS THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT SEEK IN ANGOLA ANY ECONOMIC, MILITARY, OR ANY OTHER ADVANTAGE, AND THAT NOT ONE SOVIET CITIZEN IS ON ANGOLAN TERRITORY WITH A WEAPON IN HIS HAND." "CHARGING OUR COUNTRY AND CUBA WITH 'EXPANSION'", PRAVDA CONTINUES, THE SECRETARY CLAIMS IT IS TAKING PLACE "WHERE THEY HAVE NO HISTORIAL INTEREST. CONCERNING EXPANSION--THAT IS "AN UNTRUTH," PRAVDA CLAIMS. IN CONCLUSION, PRAVDA ASSERTS THE HISTORICAL INTEREST WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAS IS THE GIVING OF "SUPPORT FOR ALL PEOPLES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE."

5. IN AN ARTICLE ON U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD DETENTE (SEPTTEL),  
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PRAVDA (FEB 2) PRAISES THE "REALISTIC POSITION" OF CONGRESS IN ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANGOLA POLICY AS REFLECTED BY THE DECISION TO PROHIBIT FURTHER U.S. ASSISTANCE. PRAVDA SPECIFICALLY CITES SENATOR CLARK'S REMARKS THAT ANY RECOMMENDATION OF FURTHER AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WOULD "NOT RECEIVE THE SUPPORT" OF THE MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER, EITHER REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT.

6. IN OTHER WEEK-END PRESS COVERAGE ON ANGOLA, NOVOYE VREMYA (JAN 30) CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH MPLA "FOREIGN MINISTER" DOS SANTOS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEW, DOS SANTOS DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIETS VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING ANGOLA, NOT ONLY THE MILITARY STRUGGLE, BUT ALSO THE PROBLEM OF ANGOLA'S "RECONSTRUCTION" (SECOND REF). IN THIS CONNECTION, IZVESTIYA (JAN 30) CARRIES A TWO SENTENCE TASS REPORT THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS EXTENDING GRANT ASSISTANCE--MOSTLY FOOD-STUFFS--TO ANGOLA.

7. COMMENT: THE LANGUAGE IN BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE, AS WELL AS IN INTERNATIONAL WEEK, DOES NOT DEVIATE FROM THE FORMULATION OF SOVIET POLICY AS CONTAINED IN JAN 29 OBSERVER ARTICLE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS BREZHNEV'S CALL FOR UNITY RATHER THAN "CONSOLIDATION", BUT WE ATTACHE NO SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS. THE ATTACKS AIMED AT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ARE UNUSUAL IN THEIR DIRECTNESS, BUT IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE BARBS HURLED AT THE SECRETARY ARE SEPARATED FROM PRAVDA'S POSITIVE COMMENTS ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DETENTE, CLEARLY IMPLYING TO THE SOVIET READER THAT DETENTE AND ANGOLA HAVE NO CONNECTION DESPITE WESTERN ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY. THE VERY BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOVIET GRANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COULD POSSIBLE PRESAGE MAJOR SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA.  
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## Message Attributes

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